

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 9370

EXDIS

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TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S WARSAW PRESS CONFERENCE - OPENING STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IN OUTLINE FORM ARE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE OPENING
STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IN WARSAW
ON DECEMBER 30, 1977.

2. EXPRESS PLEASURE AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A PRESS
CONFERENCE IN WARSAW AND APPRECIATION TO INTERPRESS FOR
LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING THE CONFERENCE.

3. IT WOULD BE GOOD TO QUOTE THOMAS JEFFERSON'S GREAT
STATEMENT ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS FROM HIS LETTER OF
JANUARY 16, 1787, TO COLONEL EDWARD CARRINGTON:

"THE BASIS OF OUR GOVERNMENT BEING THE OPINION OF THE
PEOPLE, THE VERY FIRST OBJECT SHOULD BE TO KEEP THAT RIGHT;
AND WERE IT LEFT TO ME TO DECIDE WHETHER WE SHOULD HAVE A
GOVERNMENT WITHOUT NEWSPAPERS, OR NEWSPAPERS WITHOUT
GOVERNMENT, I SHOULD NOT HESITATE A MOMENT TO PREFER THE
LATTER."

(THE POLISH TRANSLATION OF THIS PASSAGE FOLLOWS,
TAKEN FROM "WIZJE STANOW ZJEDNOCZONYCH W PISMACH OJCOW
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ZALOZYCIELI," EDITED BY WIKTOR OSIATYNSKI, PUBLISHED
BY THE STATE PUBLISHING INSTITUTE (PANSTWOWY INSTYTUT
WYDAWNICZY), WARSAW, 1977, PAGE 243: "PONIEWAZ
PODSTAWA NASZYCH RZADOW JEST OPINIA LUDU, NAJWAZNIEJSZA
SPRAWA JEST ZATEM DBALOSC, ABY OPINIA TA ODPOWIADALA
PRAWDZIE; I GDYBY MNIE POZWOLONO DECYDOWAC, CZY
POWINNISMY MIEC RZAD BEZ PRASY, CZY RACZEJ PRASE BEZ

RZADU, NIE WAHALBYM SIE ANI PRZEZ CHWILE WYBIERAJAC TO
DRUGIE." IN VIEW OF THE DIFFERENCE IN SENSE BETWEEN THE POLISH AND
ENGLISH, IT WOULD BE GOOD TO CHECK THE ACCURACY OF THE FIRST
MAIN CLAUSE OF THE ENGLISH IN BOYD, VOLUME XI, PAGES 48-49.)

4. IF, AS WE EXPECT WILL BE THE CASE, SOME INDEPENDENT
POLISH JOURNALISTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF DISSIDENT
(SAMIZDAT) JOURNALS HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND
THE PRESS CONFERENCE, EXPRESS REGRET THAT SOME
JOURNALISTS WHO WANTED TO ATTEND (UNSPECIFIED AS TO
NATIONALITY) HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO DO. AS ONE WHO
IS HIMSELF IN THE GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, THE PRESIDENT
IS NOT SURE HE WOULD LIKE TO GO ALL THE WAY WITH
JEFFERSON ON THE ABOLITION OF GOVERNMENT. IN VIEW OF
SOME OF THE THINGS HE HAD READ ABOUT HIMSELF IN THE
AMERICAN PRESS, HE CAN UNDERSTAND THE IMPULSE TO
ORGANIZE PRESS CONFERENCES RESTRICTED ONLY TO FRIENDLY
JOURNALISTS. WINSTON CHURCHILL SAID THAT DEMOCRACY
WAS THE WORST FORM OF GOVERNMENT, EXCEPT FOR
ALL THE OTHERS. IF WE THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT FREEDOM
OF PRESS AND THE FUNCTIONS IT PERFORMS, HOWEVER, WE
REALLY HAVE TO AGREE WITH JEFFERSON.

5. DESCRIBE THE VISIT TO POLAND AS PART OF A LARGER
UNDERTAKING, INVOLVING AS WELL A VISIT IN THE SPRING TO
VENEZUELA, BRAZIL, AND NIGERIA. BOTH TRIPS REFLECT
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US RECOGNITION THAT OUR POLICIES MUST TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT GLOBAL DIVERSITY AND INCREASINGLY RAPID
GLOBAL CHANGE.

6. COMMENT ON DISCUSSION WITH FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK.

7. COMMENT, AS AGREED UPON WITH CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI,
ON THE MEETING OF DR. BRZEZINSKI WITH THE CARDINAL.

8. BEFORE OPENING THE FLOOR TO QUESTIONS, REITERATE
COMMITMENT TO CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD, WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENTS
WHICH DIFFER FROM THAT OF THE US, AND THE IMPORTANCE
OF UNHINDERED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NATIONS AND
PEOPLES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR IDEOLOGIES OR POLITICAL
SYSTEMS. EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THIS PRESS CONFERENCE,
THE FIRST BY AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT IN POLAND OR ANY
OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY, WILL CONTRIBUTE TO
THE ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING
AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

9. QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE RAISED BY POLISH JOURNALISTS, ARE

BEING SENT SEPTTEL.
DAVIES

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